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/For a discussion of the processes of fusion, fission, and feudalization which have operated in the development of all Turco-Mongol social groupings, see 2: Hudson, RQ2 Kazak, category 116, pp. 98-105. --Analyst/

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101 to their geographical distribution: the 'Baraba Tatars', the 'Altaians', the 'Abakan Tatars', and so on.

The *Yakut*, who are now the northernmost branch of Turkic-speaking people, live along the River Lena right up to the Arctic shore, and in the region between the Lena [162] and the Yenisei as far south as Lake Baikal. They are superior in numbers to all the 'Siberian Tatars' taken together. In 1911 they numbered 245,000, as against 225,000 in 1897, while the 'Tatars' numbered 208,000 in 1911, plus some 4,000 people classed by the Russian officials as 'Turks of undefined nationality', as against 175,000 in 1897, plus some 3,000 'Turks of undefined nationality'.[1]

233 Under the influence of their new environment[2] the [78] Yakut have been driven to take up reindeer-breeding and a nomadic tundra life, but in their social and religious institutions survivals of the more settled conditions of their southern home are still to be seen.[3]

Of all the Turks of Asia the Yakut are the most typical representatives of what may be spoken of as 'reindeer-culture'.[4] The reindeer is to this region what the horse is to the Central Asian steppe-nomads. It supplies food, clothes, bone-implements, and is used for draught work. But while the people who have been living for a long time at the stage of reindeer-culture, such as the Koryak of the north-east or the Samoyed of the north-west, never use reindeer for riding, the Yakut ride their reindeer as their ancestors rode the horse, a practice which is looked upon with disfavour

[1] *Asiatic Russia*, vol. I, pp. 79–80.
[2] See p. 41.
[3] M. A. Czaplicka, *Aboriginal Siberia*, 1914, pp. 107, 277, 297.
[4] B. Laufer, 'The Reindeer and its Domestication', *Mem. of the Amer. Anthrop. Assoc.*, vol. IV, No. 2, 1917.

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among the Kirei, who had meanwhile become to some extent Mongolized.[1]

To the south-west of the Kirei, in Kulja and in the western part of Chinese Turkestan, on the slopes of the Tian-Shan, live remnants of various Turanian Turks, sometimes called *Kashgarians*, many of whom are perhaps the direct descendants of the old Uigur, and possibly have also a strain of the pre-Turkic Aryan population of which traces are still to be found in Central Asia. In language, and probably in physical type, they are among the purest Turanians. Most of them, especially those who are Chinese subjects, are Mahometans. They are chiefly cattle-breeders. Such are the *Ycrlik*, the *Kashgarlik*, and the *Yetisherlik*. Those subject to Russia number some 54,000 (in 1911). Since the great upheaval caused by the conquests of Jinghis Khan, and the migrations which followed, these people have remained stationary to a degree impossible anywhere but in the heart of the Asiatic continent, but it is not impossible that under a helpful and sympathetic government all of them, whether Russian or Chinese subjects, might awake to play their part in the future history of Asia.

The country to the east of the region occupied by the Chern 'Tatars' or Altaians, and to the south of that occupied by the Abakan 'Tatars', i.e. that part of the Yeniseisk Government between the Sayan Mountains and the Tannu Ola range, is called Uriankhai, and its 100,000 inhabitants are usually grouped together under the same name, Uriankhai, sometimes in its Chinese form, *Uriangut*. The northern part of the country, along the River Ussa, began to be colonized

[1] While Vambéry and Cahun reckon the Kirei as Turks, Skrine and Ross reckon them as Mongols. See note to p. 72.